

A LIFE SURROUNDING

John 3:22-36

November 20, 2022

JOHN'S ACTION WAS CHRIST-CENTERED

John 3:22-24 - ²²After this Jesus and his disciples went into the Judean countryside, and he remained there with them and was baptizing.

²³John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because water was plentiful there, and people were coming and being baptized ²⁴(for John had not yet been put in prison).

Working simultaneously

Why didn't he stop?
Jesus was here?

- ① God didn't ask him to stop yet. His calling, etc.
- ② He had influence, used this to point ppl to Jesus

- Integrity - what you do is secret is who you really are.
- Are you able to work in what God has called you to, even when no one is looking?
- No despair, but honest self.

JOHN'S AMBITION WAS CHRIST-CENTERED

John 3:25-30 - ²⁵Now a discussion arose between some of John's disciples and a Jew over purification. ²⁶And they came to John and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness—look, he is baptizing, and all are going to him." ²⁷John answered, "A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. ²⁸You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him.' ²⁹The one who has the bride is the bridegroom. The friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice. Therefore this joy of mine is now complete. ³⁰He must increase, but I must decrease."

Concern over ritual
What makes some are clean?

- v.27 ① None of the good ones remain, but Jesus
- v.28 ② Not a competition I had a job to do + did it
- v.29 ③ Joy of the best man. honored participant
- v.30 ④ It's time for my influence to decrease that something better may come.

- Selflessness
- Are you able to work in obscurity that Christ may get the glory?
- Consider his joy. Could it be ours?

Concern over following
losing credibility?

JOHN'S ADORATION WAS CHRIST-CENTERED

John 3:31-36 - ³¹He who comes from above is above all. He who is of the earth belongs to the earth and speaks in an earthly way. He who comes from heaven is above all. ³²He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony. ³³Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. ³⁴For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. ³⁵The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. ³⁶Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.

Summary statement,
wrapping up 3 chapters.

③ Jesus came to share the hope of heaven as one from heaven

④ Jesus reveals that God is true, in contrast to lies of world

⑤ Jesus given authority + power to speak on behalf of Father

⑥ Who ever believes in Jesus is rescued from life eternal

Look for Jesus in these pages.

John was fully surrounded to true God.